

# **Understanding Culture Society and Politics**

## **Quarter 1 – Module 6: Social Organizations**



## What is It

In this part of your journey, we provided something for you to read to deepen your understanding about the topic. Please do it with comprehension to discover knowledge that will help you out in dealing with the next phase of your quest.

### CONCEPT OF SOCIAL GROUPS

Everyone belongs to a group; your race, gender, favorite sports team, your college, even the place where you were born were all examples of groups. Sometimes groupings are determined by factors related to who we are (sex, age, race/ethnicity) but in many other cases, they arrive in a somewhat arbitrary fashion. In school, you would likely associate with classmates who share the same interests as you do like having a common hobby or sports affiliation or even fashion sense or even love of a certain type of music.

#### What is a Group?

A group is composed of two or more persons interacting with each other and guided by a set of norms. It is also defined as specified number of individuals where each recognizes members as distinct from non-members.

#### Basic Classifications of Social Groups

##### 1. Primary Groups

Primary groups are marked by concern for one another, shared activities and culture, and long periods of time spent together. They are influential in developing an individual's personal identity. The goal of primary groups is actually the relationships themselves rather than achieving some other purpose. The examples of a primary group but not limited to be your family and childhood and close friends.

The concept of the primary group was introduced by Charles Cooley in his book, *Social Organization: A Study of the Larger Mind*. (Contreras, Antonio P. et al. "Social Groups". *Understanding Culture, Society and Politics*. Quezon City: Phoenix Publishing House, Inc. 2016)

**Sample Groups:** Family, Play group, Village/Neighborhood, Work-team



##### 2. Secondary Groups

Secondary relationships involve weak emotional ties and little personal knowledge of one another. In contrast to primary groups, secondary groups don't have the goal of maintaining and developing the relationships themselves. These groups are based on usual or habitual interests or affairs. It includes groups in which one exchanges explicit

commodities, such as labor for wages, services for payments, and such.

**Sample Groups:** Nation, Church Hierarchy, Professional Association, Corporation, University classes, Athletic teams, and groups of coworkers.

### 3. In-group

Belonging to the same group as others who share the same common bond and interests who are more likely to understand each other refers to an in-group. Sample Groups: Sports team, Unions and Sororities

### 4. Out-group

Those who do not belong to the in-group are part of the out-group, which exist in the perceptions of the in-group members and takes on social reality as a result of behavior by in-group members who use the out group as a negative point of reference.



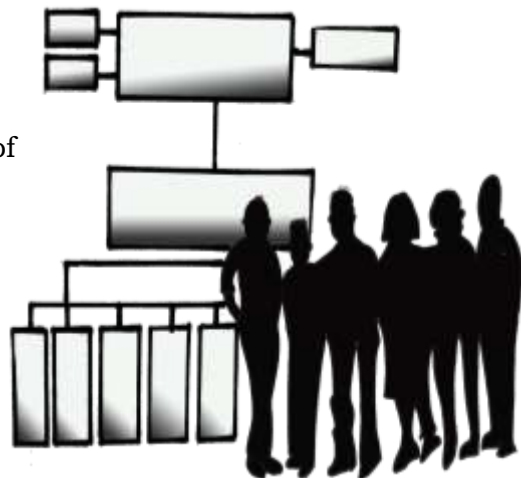
### 5. Reference Groups

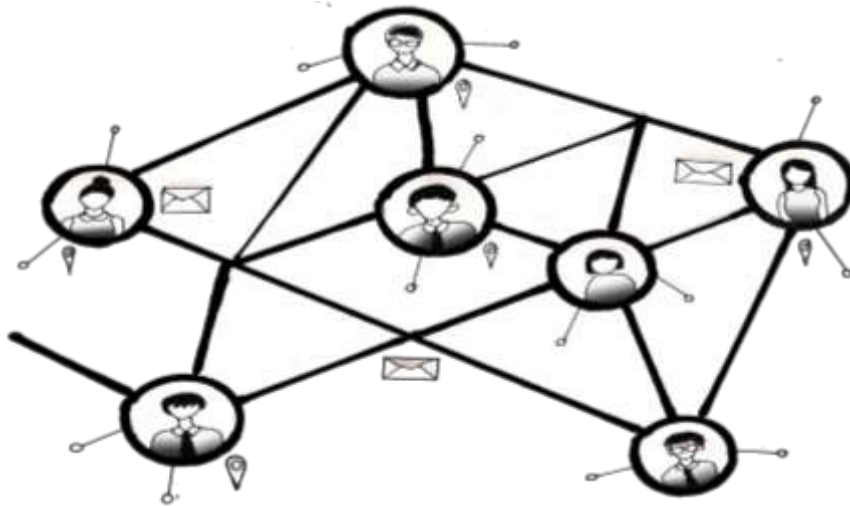
A reference group is a collection of people that we use as a standard of comparison for ourselves regardless of whether we are part of that group. We rely on reference groups to understand social norms, which then shape our values, ideas, behavior, and appearance. This means that we also use them to evaluate the relative worth, desirability, or appropriateness of these things.

By looking to reference groups--be they those of race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, region, ethnicity, age, or localized groups defined by neighborhood or school, among others-- we see norms and dominant values, and we choose to either embrace and reproduce them in our own thoughts, behavior, and interactions with others; or, we reject and refute them by thinking and acting in ways that break from them. Sample of these groups are parents, siblings, teachers, peers, associates, and friends.

### 6. Network

A network is a collection of people tied together by a specific pattern of connections. They can be characterized by the number of people involved, as in the dyad (by twos) and triad (by threes), but also in terms of their structures (who is connected to whom) and functions (what flows across ties). Networks indeed, are able to do more things and different things than individuals acting on their own could. Networks have this effect, regardless of the content of the connections or persons involved.





Nowadays, the giving of information and establishing of connections and various relationships can be done through social networking sites. In this manner, it is easier to form connections, relationships and linkages. Example: Family Members, Friends, Work Colleagues, Classmates

There is another strong example of a network that has boomed since the beginning of the 21st century. Since 1979, electronic forms of social networking have boomed, starting with CompuServe and MySpace, and moving to other networking applications such as Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram.